**Statement-ll**

*Steps taken to bridge the gap between afforestation and deforestation*

(1) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme, a perspective plan for twenty years, to increase forest/tree cover to 33% of the land area as mandated in°the National Forest Policy, 1988.

(2) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from the Government of India.

(3) Externally-aided projects are implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(4) Guidelines lo all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests have been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(5) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forests lands for non forestry purposes.

(6) A network of protected areas has been established for conservation of biodiversity.

(7) A Joint Forest Management Cell has been constituted in the Ministry for monitoring and coordinating activities of Joint Forest Management in various States and achievements of its objectives.

**Import of hazardous wastes**

248. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hazardous waste is being imported into the country;

(b) if so, the extent of such imports and reasons why this waste is permitted;

(c) the manner in which such waste is disposed; and

(d) the impact of this import on our health and environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) As per Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and amendments thereof, import of hazardous waste for dumping and disposal is banned since 1989. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has totally banned import of hazardous wastes into the country since May, 1997. Strict compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is ensured.

Import of recyclable wastes is permitted subject to availability of valid consents under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, valid authorization under the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, as amended in 2000 and after ensuring that facilities for processing and disposal of wastes in an environmentally sound manner are available.

**Local purchase of medicines by CGHS**

249. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether local purchased Allopathic and Ayurvedic medicines, though not received by CGHS beneficiaries, are being verified by dispensaries for payment to chemists in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number and details of complaints received by Government from the beneficiaries;

(c) whether Government propose to instruct CGHS dispensaries or chemists to mention manufacturing date, company name with rate in indent, before LP medicines are given to CGHS beneficiaries; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to stop such malpractices in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The local purchase medicines received in the dispensary against the indent of a particular beneficiary, if not collected by the said